

2030 ADMITTANCE TO POST SPONSORED BASIC TRAINING PROGRAMS

POLICY

Applicants for any peace officer training program conducted by or through the Utah Division of Peace Officer Standards and Training shall comply with all requirements outlined in Utah Code Ann. § 53-6-203 and with the requirements of this policy.

PROCEDURE

APPLICATION

An application to attend a basic peace officer training program must be filled out in its entirety. Applications must be completed and submitted electronically via the POST website.

Applications shall be considered valid for 6 months from the time the application is completed by the applicant. Applications older than 6 months must be resubmitted before an applicant will be considered for acceptance to a peace officer training program. Applications must be completed and received by POST at least four weeks prior to the start of the training program unless special circumstances exist and arrangements have been made with the POST Director or Deputy Director.

ENTRANCE EXAM

In accordance with POST Council directive issued in January 1997, applicants must show they have adequate reading, writing, and mathematical skills, by passing the National Peace Officers Selection Test (NPOST). In order to maintain the integrity of the exam and allow POST a means to verify the completion of the testing requirement, scoring of the NPOST will be provided through Standard & Associates, Inc.

Test results indicating the applicant has passed the NPOST should be included with the application and received by POST at least four weeks prior to the start of the training program unless special circumstances exist and arrangements have been made with the POST Director or Deputy Director.

At the discretion of the Academy Director, an applicant may be allowed to start the training program pending the results of the NPOST; however, POST must receive confirmation that the cadet has passed the NPOST before the beginning of the fifth week of the academy or before taking the SFO certification test, whichever comes first. A cadet who has not passed the NPOST prior to the fifth week of the training program will be subject to dismissal.

Note: Applicants for LEO training who are currently certified as

SFO and who attended SFO training prior to 1997, may be accepted into the LEO training program without the NPOST. The entrance exam requirements in this section do not apply to applicants for dispatcher certification.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Before accepting any applicant into any peace officer training program conducted by or through the Utah Division of Peace Officer Standards and Training the director of a certified academy shall ensure the applicant meets the following legal requirements:

1. The applicant shall be a United States citizen.
 - a. The applicant shall provide proof of citizenship by providing a copy of a birth certificate, or other formal government document indicating United States citizenship
 - b. Naturalized citizens shall indicate their naturalization number on the application or provide a copy of a current and valid U.S. Passport.

Note: Naturalized citizens shall not attach a copy of their naturalization certificate, whereas copying naturalization certificates without permission is a violation of federal law.

2. The applicant shall be at least 21 years old at the time of certification as a special function officer or correctional officer. Evidence of date of birth shall be established by a birth certificate or other official government document.
3. The applicant shall be a high school graduate or shall furnish evidence of successful completion of an examination indicating an equivalent achievement.
4. The applicant shall have not been convicted of a crime for which the applicant could have been punished by imprisonment in a federal penitentiary or by imprisonment in the penitentiary of this or another state;
5. The applicant shall have demonstrated good moral character, as determined by a background investigation, which may include consideration of offenses that have been expunged under Utah Code Ann. § 77-40-108 or that have been dismissed or that have been treated in a similar manner to either of these procedures.
6. The applicant shall be free of any physical, emotional, or mental condition that might adversely affect the performance of the applicant's duties as a peace officer.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

A criminal history background check of local, state, and national criminal history files shall be conducted to determine if the applicant has a criminal record. An applicant with a criminal history as outlined below may be denied entrance into a peace officer training program.

FELONY CONVICTION

Applicants who have been convicted of a felony in this or any other state are not eligible for peace officer training.

DISMISSED FROM ARMED SERVICES UNDER DISHONORABLE CONDITIONS.

Applicants who have been dismissed from the armed services under dishonorable conditions are not eligible for peace officer training.

STATE OR FEDERAL CRIMINAL OFFENSES

Applicants who have been convicted of, or involved in conduct which is a state or federal criminal offense may not be allowed to make application to attend a basic peace officer training program or receive peace officer certification for a period of time consistent with the current POST disciplinary guidelines for the specific crime involved.

The waiting period shall run from the date of the involvement unless the applicant is still under court supervision (i.e. probation) for the violation in which case the applicant will not be allowed to make application until the probation has been successfully completed and/or the applicant is no longer under court supervision.

Waiting periods shall run consecutively for applicants who have been convicted of, or involved in multiple violations.

1. Four Year Waiting Period

Engages in conduct which is a state or federal criminal offense that is a felony, but where the applicant was not convicted of a felony. Engages in conduct which is a class A misdemeanor and which involves an act of violence.

2. Three Year Waiting Period

Engages in conduct which is a state or federal criminal offense that is a class A misdemeanor.

3. Two Year Waiting Period

Falsifies any information to obtain certification. Engages in conduct which is a Class B misdemeanor and which involves an act of violence. Engages in conduct which is a Class B misdemeanor and which involves the possession

or use of a controlled substance.

4. One Year Waiting Period

Engages in any crime involving lying, dishonesty, false reports or any conduct which is a violation of any other state or federal criminal offense that is a class B misdemeanor.

5. Six Month Waiting Period

Engages in conduct which is a state or federal criminal offense that is a class C misdemeanor or infraction, but not including a traffic offense that is a class C misdemeanor or infraction

CRIMES INVOLVING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Applicants who have been convicted of Domestic Violence are not eligible for peace officer training unless the conviction has been expunged or set aside.

MISUSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Misuse of a prescription drug includes, but is not limited to, taking a prescription drug that has not been legally prescribed to you personally, taking a prescription drug in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or labeling information or providing a prescription drug to another person knowing that the drug has not been legally prescribed to that individual.

Some variance to this policy may be granted based on mitigating circumstances of a specific case.

Example: If an applicant has taken a prescription drug, not prescribed to them, for a legitimate medical purpose under extenuating circumstance, such as not being able to see a doctor in a reasonable time, the waiting period may be reduced.

ALCOHOL OR DRUG ABUSE

Any activity(s) involving the abuse of alcohol or drugs may be considered in determining if an applicant will be allowed to attend a basic peace officer training academy or receive peace officer certification.

WILLFUL DISREGARD FOR LAWFUL BEHAVIOR

Applicants convicted of, or involved in minor crimes not identified in this policy, including traffic when willful disregard for lawful behavior is evidenced by repetitiveness of conduct or other aggravating factors, shall not be allowed to make application to attend a basic peace officer training session or receive peace officer certification prior to one year from the latest conviction or involvement. In cases where arrest warrants are issued, the one-year waiting period will begin at the time of the warrant service.

FALSIFICATION OF APPLICATION

If a person is found to have falsified any information to gain admittance into a basic training program, a two-year waiting period will be applied from the date POST becomes aware of the falsification.

If the information falsified is covered by other sections of this policy, (i.e., drug use, crime of violence, crime of dishonesty, unlawful sexual conduct) and a specific waiting period is required, POST will require the person to wait the longer of the two periods. Waiting periods will not be combined to run consecutively.

Example: If a person puts on the application that they have not used cocaine within the past five years, and POST discovers they used cocaine two years ago, they will have to wait another three years because the policy requires a wait of five years for cocaine. The policy requiring a two-year wait for falsifying the application will not be applied.

If a cadet completes the academy prior to POST becoming aware of a falsification, the cadet will not be allowed to take the certification exam until the two-year waiting period has been met. If a cadet becomes certifiable and then is subsequently discovered to have falsified information to obtain certified status, that officer will be subject to suspension of their peace officer certification.